GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2347
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2005
PAHARIA AND BHUNJIA TRIBES
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Paharia and Bhunjia tribes living in the Sunabeda valley and forest areas in Orissa;

(b) whether they are restricted to enter into the forest to earn their livelihood;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to launch scheme for their economic upliftment as they are migrating to Chhattisgarh and other States in search of job; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) The Scheduled Tribes of Orissa have been notified in Part − XII of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, the Bhunjia Tribe appeared in entry 9 in the list without any area restriction. According to 1991 census they are 11276 in number. Paharia community has not been notified as Scheduled Tribe in Orissa. However, Pahari Kharia has been notified as Scheduled Tribe vide ` The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002` alongwith the Kharia Tribe at serial no. 29 in the list. The population of Pahari Kharia in not available as this has been notified after 2001 census.

(b&c) As per the information of the Ministry of Environment and Forests the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not affect the enjoyment of recorded rights/concessions of local people especially Scheduled Tribe people for their own bonafide domestic use.

(d&e) Under the strategies of Tribal Sub-Plan, various schemes under the sectors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations, Minor Irrigation and Cottage and Small Scale Industries etc. are being implemented for economic upliftment of the tribal people. Details of the schemes are available in the Annual Report 2004-05 of the Ministry.